

APPROVED: Meeting No. 19-91

ATTEST: *Sharon O. Bear*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 12-91

April 17, 1991

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on April 17, 1991, at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepien

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

ABSENT

Councilmember James F. Coyle

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, Assistant City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Sharon Gran.

Re: Worksession with Historic
District Commission

Commission Members Alice Kelly, J. Bryan Blundell and Dean Brenneman discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

Status of Firemen's Memorial

The Rockville Volunteer Fire Department wishes to have the memorial located in an area which can be easily accessed for viewing the names. The monument has been designed, and the Fire Department will pay the entire costs of construction/installation. Although the Department had requested that the monument be located in Courthouse Square, agreement has been reached that Vinson Park would be a suitable location. Both the Cultural Arts Commission and the Historic District Commission have reviewed the proposal

Meeting No. 12-91

2

April 17, 1991

and feel that the memorial would be an enhancement to Vinson Park. The Historic District Commission strongly supports the project, especially in view of its contribution to the history of Rockville.

It was pointed out that Vinson Park is owned and maintained by Montgomery County. The City Manager was requested to send a letter to the Chief Administrative Officer requesting the County's approval for installation of the monument in Vinson Park.

Courthouse Square Redesign

It was noted that these plans were redrawn as a result of the decision to close Courthouse Square to through traffic, and the revised plans will be presented to the Mayor and Council for their approval in the near future.

Creation of a Civic Center Mansion Subcommittee

Although pleased with the formation of this subcommittee, the Commission noted some concern that the subcommittee would report to the Recreation and Park Advisory Board which has two representatives on the subcommittee while the Historic District Commission and Cultural Arts Commission have only one. Mayor Duncan assured the Commission that matters relating to historic significance would be referred to the Historic District Commission. The Recreation and Park Advisory Board has a number of similar subcommittees such as the Redgate Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Rockville Municipal Swim Center Advisory Committee. It was also noted that the purpose of the subcommittee is to generate a working relationship among the three groups, to avoid confusion as to the Historic District Commission and their authority and to give guidance to the Mayor and Council and the Recreation and Park Advisory Board regarding renovation, maintenance and upkeep of the mansion and surrounding grounds.

Master Plan for Lincoln High School Site

Mayor Duncan advised that it would be very expensive to bring this property up to current standards which would involve removal of asbestos. The City is currently

Meeting No. 12-91

3

April 17, 1991

waiting for the Board of Education and County to decide whether this property will be declared "surplus." The former Lincoln High School site is now an historic district and protected by such laws.

As to whether the local citizen groups have raised any funds for proposed projects at this site, it was noted that they have not at this time.

Activities for Preservation Week, May 12-18

Educating the citizens as to the significance of the historic district is a major goal. Posters and banners will be distributed. Additionally, the City is providing ribbons and flags for display by owners of properties on the National Historic Register. Staff will send letters to property owners to this effect.

To identify with Historic Preservation Week, Rockville's cable channel will broadcast a video on the Red Brick Courthouse, and there will be a ribbon-hanging ceremony at the Beall-Dawson House.

Mrs. Kelly requested that publicity for this week be done as early as possible to allow property owners ample opportunity to receive their ribbons.

Re: Worksession with Human
Rights Commission

Carol Hannaford, Chairperson, and Commission Members Walter Davis, Mayo Robertson, Rawlein Soberano and Lloyd Welter discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

Human Rights Investigator

The Commission feels that the current part-time Human Rights Investigator should be made a full-time position with benefits. The City Manager noted that, consistent with this year's budget philosophy of no increase in workyears, it has been recommended that the position remain part-time. In view of new legislation, in particular the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is anticipated that there will be an

Meeting No. 12-91

4

April 17, 1991

increase in the number of human rights complaints. Following discussion, the Mayor and Council agreed that should there be an increase necessitating additional staff resources, the City would contract with an individual, on a short-term basis, to assist with the workload. A list of qualified individuals for such contract work would be assembled now.

Suburban Maryland Fair Housing

The Commission fully supports SMFH's request for funding in the amount of \$8,000 to perform additional testing in the City to keep the City abreast of housing problems. Suburban Maryland Fair Housing currently does a countywide sampling with the funds provided by Montgomery County. The \$4,000 in this year's budget contributed by the City went into SMFH's overall budget for this project. The funding of \$8,000 requested for next fiscal year would be for work specifically negotiated with the organization by the City and Commission. In response to Councilmember Robbins' question as to whether there is a correlation between the amount of testing and compliance, Chairperson Hannaford responded that testing acts as a deterrent.

Councilmember Hovsepian expressed concern with the publicized statistics incorrectly identifying areas outside the municipal boundaries as "Rockville."

Human Rights Commission Legislation

Mr. Welter expressed the need to strengthen the City's legislation to bring it more in line with Montgomery County's which mandates stricter penalties for discrimination. The last major review of the City's human rights law was in 1977. Mayor Duncan suggested that the Human Rights Commission may wish to come back to the Mayor and Council with recommendations for revisions.

Affirmative Action Plan

Chairperson Hannaford noted that the Commission has some concerns with the Affirmative Action Plan and that the City's Personnel Director has offered to come to a Commission meeting to address these concerns. The City Manager acknowledged that the

Meeting No. 12-91

5

April 17, 1991

Plan was never considered to be final and that the City would be receptive to changes. Mayor Duncan commented that some employment categories had been changed before the Plan was adopted. It was agreed that the City Manager or Personnel Director would present the latest Affirmative Action Report to the Commission.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on April 22, 1991, or at the call of the Mayor.